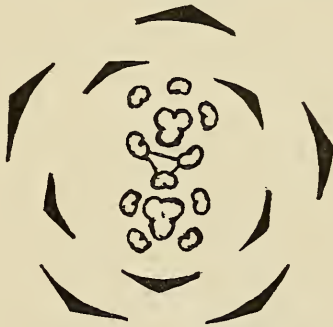


ABNORMALITY IN LILIUM PHILADELPHICUM

BY C. B. ATWELL

Lilium philadelphicum L. grows abundantly along the shores, and especially in the moist grassy openings among cedars and balsams immediately back of the old beach, of Bois Blanc Island, in the Straits of Mackinac. Individual plants producing three flowers each are found not infrequently, and plants having two flowers are quite frequently seen. One which appeared to be of the latter variety, collected July 12, 1915, and preserved in formalin, proved to be an extremely interesting example of abnormality. One flower is normal in every respect, while the second has a pedicel thickened and grooved, as if made up of two pedicels grown together. Its flower appears to be double, but closer observation reveals these facts: there are five outer and five inner segments of the perianth, and each member of each of these series is normal as in single flowers; there are two

FIG. 1. Abnormality in *Lilium philadelphicum*.

separate and distinct pistils, each with seed-case, style, and stigma, quite as in normal forms; the stamens are ten in number, five in a cycle around each pistil; three of the stamens lie between the pistils, and slightly cohere by their filaments for the distance of five millimeters upward from their bases. Thus, it seems, this freak lily has one of its flowers on the normal "plan of three," and the other on the "plan of five," except for the two pistils with their three-celled ovaries. The cross-plan of the flower serves

to make these relations clearer. In this combination of two flowers in one, two stamens and two segments of the perianth appear to have been lost.

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NEWS ITEMS

The prizes announced in *TORREYA* for February offered by the *Journal of Heredity* for photographs of the largest deciduous trees in the United States, have been awarded. In the order of size the largest trees entered in the contest and their girths are as follows: Sycamore, 42½ ft.; Tulip tree, 34½ ft.; Chestnut, 33¼ ft.; American Elm, 33 ft.; Black Walnut, 24 ft.; and White Oak, 21 ft. Besides the amount of information secured through the contest as to big and historical trees, there are many significant trends in forest geography suggested by the results. A preliminary report of the contest appears in the *Journal of Heredity* for September.

Dr. L. O. Kunkel sailed for Stockholm on September 25th for a year's study abroad.

Mr. Guy R. Bisby has gone to Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, to fill the position vacated by Dr. F. D. Fromme.

We regret to record the death on September 30 at his country home at Stamford, Conn., of Mr. Lowell M. Palmer, who for many years maintained one of the best private collections of evergreens and rhododendrons in this country. Hundreds of specimens at the New York Botanical Garden and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden were presented to those institutions by Mr. Palmer.

We learn from *Science* that the sum of \$25,000 has been put into a trust fund by the late Anna Yarnall for the support of the botanic garden of the University of Pennsylvania, as long as the garden "is under the supervision of the head of the botanical department."